

Prescription Monitoring Program

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Issue in Maine:

- ❑ Prescription Drug-related deaths increased in the 90's until 2009 when drug related deaths peaked at 179. In 2011 it decreased to 156 deaths then in 2013 climbed back up to 176 deaths.
- ❑ The number of admissions to substance abuse treatment for prescription opiate addiction went from about 400 in SFY 1998 to above 4586 in SFY 2014.
- ❑ In 2013, 15.3% of 12th graders said they took a prescription drug (such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, Codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription at least once in their lifetime. (2013 MIYHS).
- ❑ In 2013, the percentage of Maine Drug Enforcement Agency arrests that involved a prescription drug offense was 38%,



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The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administers the state's controlled substances Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). Over four hundred pharmacies in and out of state are required to report all transactions for controlled substances (DEA Schedule Classes II-IV). These records are stored in a centralized database, in which health care providers can search for patients to determine their prescription histories. Created to prevent and detect prescription drug abuse, the PMP has become a standard health care tool. Nationally, PMPs have been shown to be effective at reducing access to prescription drugs of abuse.

Program Goals:

- ❑ Improve patient care by giving health care providers comprehensive information from one source
- ❑ Reduce prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion
- ❑ Reduce prescription drug overdoses
- ❑ Educate the public on the dangers of prescription drug abuse
- ❑ Inform public policy surrounding prescription drug regulation with use of aggregate prescription monitoring data

Priority Populations:

Youth under age 18, young adults aged 18-25, and older adults – each age group has unique risks.

Program Activities:

- ❑ Licensed health care professionals (e.g., doctors, pharmacists) can register with the program to become "data requestors." To help increase PMP utilization, Delegates are assigned to access the PMP on behalf of doctors and pharmacists. The system is accessible through an online interface (www.maine.gov/pmp).
- ❑ Notification Reports: Automated algorithms generate monthly reports that are sent to prescribers and pharmacists to alert them when patients cross potentially dangerous threshold levels of drugs.
- ❑ SAMHS staff members conduct frequent training in the use of the system for health care professionals throughout Maine.
- ❑ Aggregate data is posted on SAMHS's web site periodically, and special reports are available upon request.

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